strongthen the Public Distribution System (PDS) in areas covered by Integrated Tribal Development Projects (ITDP), Desert Development Programme (DDP), Draught Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and certain Designated Hill Areas (DHA). Representatives of all States and almost all U.T.s were present at the meeting.

Ministers from many States demanded higher allocations of PDS commodities. They also demanded resumption of supplies of imported edible oils under the PDS. Allocation of PDS commodities to various States are made considering factors like demand from States, availability in the Central Pool, etc. and imports of edible oil made. Government has since decided to import about 1,50,000 tonnes of Palmolein for distribution under PDS. Ministers of some States demanded improvement in timely availability of stocks from Food Corporation of India depots. There was also a demand for increased assistance from the Central Government for various measures to improve the PDS. The Central Government already incurs a huge expenditure in procuring, storing, transporting and delivering the PDS commodities to the State Governments/ U.T. Administrations. Central Government also has ongoing schemes to assist State Governments/U.T. Administrations for purchase of mobile vans, and for setting up of godowns in certain States.

Proposals by Indian Rare Earths Limited

638. SHRI S. MADHAVAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Rare Earths Limited has submitted proposals to open up new minerals sand deposits in Tamil Nadu for making value added products; if so, the details thereof; and

(b) what decision Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) No, Sir. Preliminarf studies are under waf to exploit the mineral deposits occuring at Kudiraimozhi, V. O. Chidambaranar District, Tamil Nadu.

(b) Does not arise.

Nuclear Power Station in Andhra Pradesh

639. SHRI T. CHANDRASEKHAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to set up some nuclear power stations in the State to augment its power resources;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard and any site selected for the purpose in the State; and

(c) if so, the details of the sites selected and plans, if any, drawn up for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No decision has so far been taken by Government of India on locating a nuclear power plant in Andhra Pradesh. However, preliminary/ exploratory investigations of sites in Andhra Pradesh have been carried out. The selection of sites for nuclear power plants will have to undergo various stages of review and appraisal. This process is under way at present.

Early Clearance to Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant

640. SHRI J. P. JAVALI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the III and IV units of Kaiga Nuclear Power Plant, are yet to receive environmental clearance; and

(b) if so, what action has been taken for early clearance?